Rs. 1 lakh has been made for the education of the deaf, dumb and the blind. Rs 5 lakhs is provided for a Polytechnic Institute to be attached to the University.

Village Uplift.

Government propose to amalgamate the Village Unions, the Village Panchayats and the Village Uplift Departments into one Department and to place it under the direction of one Officer with a view to working out a comprehensive plan of Rural Development. Including the unspent balances of the last 2 years, a total amount of Rs. 35·75 lakhs is proposed to be spent by the Rural Development department during the next year. An amount of Rs. 3·20 lakhs is made available for the Co-operative Department. The Department for the Uplift of Backward Communities will get a total of about Rs 4·28 lakhs as against Rs. 3·78 lakhs for 1123. We have thus Rs. 43·23 lakhs for Rural Development work in 1124.

Medical and Rural Sanitation.

For establishing a Medical College Rs. 10 lakhs has been set aside for expenditure next year as a first instalment. The prevention and control of malaria gets Rs 1·76 lakhs, tuberculosis Rs. 1·48 lakhs and Plague Rs. 50,000. Rs 7 lakhs is provided for giving improved diet to poor patients in hospitals as against 4·5 lakhs in 1123. Rs 2 lakhs is provided for acquisition of land and additional accommodation for hospitals and dispensaries. Rs 5 lakhs is provided for supplies of Medicine and surgical instruments. An additional special allotment of Rs. 50,000 has been made in the budget of the Ayurveda Department.

The Food Position.

The food position has been causing grave anxiety to Government. The country has just emerged from a serious threat of a breakdown in its rationing system. Government had to incur a loss of Rs. 96·28 lakhs till the end of 1122. This loss has considerably increased in 1123. This is mainly due to the raising of the pool price of imported rice from I Rupees 15-14-0 per maund to I. Rs 22-11-0 per maund, while the Government were selling it at I. Rs. 12-14-9 per maund. As this difference tended to increase the loss sustained by Government, they were constrained to enhance the rate to I. Rs. 16-3-2 per maund with effect from 25th Makaram 1123, so that the abnormal loss might be reduced a little. The rate had further to be enhanced to I. Rs. 21-7-7 per maund with effect from 6th Medom 1123 as the pool price fixed by the Government of India remained unaltered. The total estimated loss during the year 1123 on account of the subsidisation of the sale of rice is about Rs 200 lakhs. This loss is too heavy for the State to bear and the question of a food subsidy to the State from the Government of India has been earnestly taken up. But a decision on this matter is still awaited.

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[Hon'ble Mr. A. Thanu Pillai]

The stock position of food grains as on this day is about 34,000 tons (30,000 tons of rice and 4000 tons of wheat) which will cover our requirements for 5 weeks only. The import quota allotted will not be sufficient to meet the requirements for the rest of 1948. Very earnest representations have therefore been made to the Central Government in the matter of the supply of an additional quantity of 40,000 tons of rice before the end of 1948 The Government's plan to adopt a policy of partial and cautious decontrol of food grains will have to be considered in relation to the All India policy of the Central Government in this regard before a final decision can be taken. Provided there is no variance with the Central Government's plan, Government are considering the possibility of introducing decontrol with proper safeguards in the Nanjinad area, Shencottah, Pathanapuram, Muvattupuzha, Kunnatnad and Parur taluks.

Grow More Food.

As the question of food shortage is one facing many countries releases of food grains on the pre-war level cannot be expected at least for a few years to come and we have therefore to draw up and implement our own scheme to cover the deficit. Some schemes have already been taken on hand and others are ready to be put through. The Department of Agriculture and that, for Land, Production and procurement are working in close co-operation. The main features of the schemes are the provision of adequate facilities to agriculturists for intensive cultivation of paddy and for the production of various supplementary food crops and for putting more and more arable land under food crops. Ample funds have been provided in the Budget for restoration of tanks and other minor irrigation and lift irrigation works, for the manufacture and distribution of manures, both artificial and natural, for the distribution of high yielding seeds, as also for implementing schemes for the cultivation of potato, wheat and other crops in the High Ranges. Provision has been made for colonisation and food production. Rs. 80,000 has been provided for the expansion of the production of compost manure in accordance with the Government of India scheme. It may also be mentioned that a sum of Rs. 11·5 lakhs has been provided for the Perinchani Irrigation Project in South Travancore for the year 1124.

Travancore is in an advantageous position in regard to artificial fertilisers. The Travancore Fertilisers and Chemicals Factory at Alwaye produces nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilisers. The yield of the Factory is estimated at 50,000 tons of ammonium sulphate per annum and it is also expected to produce 75 to 90 tons of sulphuric acid and 80 to 100 tons of super-phosphates a day. Some of the important by-products of the Factory are wood-ash, calcium carbonate and unutilised gypsum. The recovery of

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